(d) In view of holding of National Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries no separate reference to the State Governments has been made.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of the reply to part (d) above.

Statement

Resolution

This National Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries in its Meeting held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on today, the 18th December, 2005 does hereby appreciate the initiative taken by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice to introduce a legislation giving access to speedy and inexpensive justice at the grassroots level to the common man and also resolves that the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2005 as discussed in the Conference should be processed for its early enactment after considering the suggestions placed by the various State Law Ministers and Law Secretaries including the funding to such Gram Nyayalayas.

Cases pending in courts

822. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 34 lakh cases were pending in various courts by the middle of 2004;

(b) if so, the current figures in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure disposal of these cases in a time bound programme and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) At present there are 33,635 cases in Supreme Court, 33,41,040 cases in High Courts and 2,53,06,458 cases in Subordinate Courts reported to be pending.

(c) Time bound disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of judiciary. However, in order to reduce pendency of cases Government has initiated a number of measures which include, timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases,

involving common question of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts and Labour courts. The Government has extended the term of existing 1562 Fast Track Courts for another five years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010 for clearing huge pendency of cases at District level.

High Court Bench in Thiruvananthapuram

823. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have intimated the State Government of Kerala to provide infrastructure facilities for setting up of High Court Bench in Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Kerala have expressed their willingness to provide the same;

(c) whether any steps are pending with Government to set up the High Court Bench as assured and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stage at which are setting up of High Court Bench stands at present and the formalities which are required and to be completed on the part of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) Setting up of a Bench of a High Court is considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. However, no such complete proposal in this regard has been received.

Increase in strength of judges in Supreme Court

824. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the strength of judges of Supreme Court;